

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 7, 2014

Mr. Steven Rietzke
Grant Officer
U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
Office of Grants Management
200 Constitution Avenue NW Room N4176
Washington, DC 20210

RE: SGA/DFA PY 13-10 Pacific Northwest Maritime Alliance

Dear Mr. Rietzke:

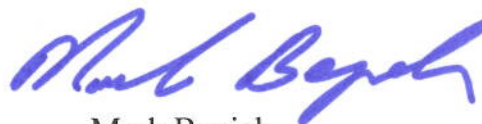
I write to convey my support for the *Pacific Northwest Maritime Alliance*, which will bolster an industry essential to the Alaska economy.

The maritime industry plays a crucial role in the Alaska economy, providing high-paying jobs in fishing, tourism, transportation, and shipbuilding, by bringing in billions of dollars of revenue. Due to the importance of this industry, it is in the best interest of my state to develop and maintain a talent pipeline that can supply the workers needed to fill these high-paying jobs.

The *Pacific Northwest Maritime Initiative* will address this goal by promoting an employer-led common curriculum, utilizing online and other technologically-enabled forms of learning, and allowing for seamless transitions between employers and across state lines. The initiative will take the form of a dual-state consortium consisting of five colleges, including the University of Alaska Southeast, up to ten employers, and three Workforce Development Areas.

The *Pacific Northwest Maritime Initiative* will help meet the ongoing need for highly trained workers and ensure that our maritime industries are up-to-date with regulatory changes and industry trends. Funding the proposal will help affirm our commitment to a strong maritime industry going forward, and as such I support this effort.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator